

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : A23L 1/217	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/33357 (43) International Publication Date: 8 July 1999 (08.07.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/27726 (22) International Filing Date: 30 December 1998 (30.12.98) (30) Priority Data: 09/001,455 31 December 1997 (31.12.97) US (71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). (72) Inventors: GISAW, Yonas ; 154 Woodstock Drive, Fairfield, OH 45014 (US). ASQUITH, Thomas ; Northrup; 8531 Foxcroft Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231 (US). LAI, Oiki ; Syliva; Unit 1803, 2444 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45208 (US). VILLAGRAN, Maria ; Dolores, Martinez-Serna; 6161 Indian Trail Drive, West Chester, OH 45069 (US). COLE, Brandi, Rene ; Unit 25, 5350 Camelot Drive, Fairfield, OH 45014 (US). (74) Agents: REED, T., David et al. ; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: **POTATO-BASED SNACKS AND METHODS FOR PREPARING THEM**

(57) Abstract

The texture and flavor release of fabricated snacks are selectively controlled by incorporating into potato-based dough different ingredients having various properties which allows control of the (1) visco-elastic properties of the dough, (2) amount of expansion that occurs in the dough during frying, (3) rate of water release during frying, (4) internal structure of the finished snack, (5) rate of flavor release from the finished snack and, (6) rate of hydration and dissolution of the finished snack in the mouth. The product is prepared from a dough composition which is primarily composed of (1) mainly one or more potato-based ingredients selected from potato flour, potato flakes, or potato granules and mixtures thereof, together with (2) one or more polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of starch wherein the starch is a native starch, pregelatinized and/or partially gelatinized starch, modified starch, starch hydrolyzate, gums selected from hydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, and microcrystalline cellulose. The relative proportions of these ingredients are adjusted to produce a cohesive, non-adhesive, extensible dough, having a tensile strength of about 120gf to about 400gf. The dough composition can be used to produced finished products having a range of textures and flavor profiles.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

POTATO-BASED SNACKS AND METHODS FOR PREPARING THEM

THEREOF

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a method for selectively controlling the texture, flavor display and mouthmelt (i.e., organoleptical properties) of potato-based fabricated snacks. The present invention further relates to dough compositions from which the potato-based fabricated snacks are made.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is quite common to include starch-based materials in the dough compositions of fabricated snacks. Typically, ingredients such as dried potato products are used in combination with a high amylopectin and/or pregelatinized starch. The high amylopectin starch and/or pregelatinized starch is used to provide a dough having desired performance properties (e.g., cohesive, non-adhesive, continuously sheetable) while at the same time providing a dough which produces an acceptable snack when fried.

Acceptability of the organoleptical properties of fabricated snacks relies more upon the perceptions of the consumer than on properties that can be measured quantitatively. For example, crispness, crunchiness, and mouthmelt are not easily quantified, but have significant impact on consumer acceptance. Since many of the properties of fabricated snacks are influenced by the composition of the dough, it would be desirable to develop methods for selectively controlling the organoleptical properties of the snack through formulation.

Although all of the factors contributing to the organoleptical properties of the snack are not well understood, it is known that changes in the dough's composition and variability of the same ingredient (i.e., from lot to lot), can result in significant changes in the visco-elastic properties of the dough and the organoleptical properties of the fried snack.

Fabricated snacks, such as potato chips or potato crisps, generally comprise ingredients such as potato flour, potato flakes, potato granules mixed with water, and various other dry ingredients. The dry ingredients may include starches in powder, granule or flake form. The starch is used as a binder for the dough and to control expansion of the dough during frying.

Combinations of ungelatinized and pregelatinized starches have been the most common starches used to control the expansion of sheetable doughs in the past, but such use has been for the purpose of expansable doughs having relatively low solids (e.g. < 60%). Further, use of these starches typically require special equipment (e.g., docking equipment, restraining molds) in order to control expansion and/or require special steps (e.g., forming pre-mixes, hydrating the pregelatinized starch first) in order to form a cohesive dough.

Other starches have also been suggested for use in sheeted dough compositions. However, one problem with incorporating various starches in the dough compositions has been the inability to control the final texture of the product. This is because the ingredients used may have different properties which will affect the organoleptical properties as well as the internal structure of the finished product. For example, starches that have different water absorption indexes, degrees of gelatinization or modification will cause structural variations in the products which contain that starch ingredient. Other problems have been determining (1) the effect of these starches on the visco-elastic properties of the dough (2) the conditions necessary to process the dough due to ingredient changes, and (3) the influence the ingredients will have on the texture of the resulting snack.

Prior approaches of trial and error or mix-and-test, have been ineffective in providing a reliable method for selectively controlling the texture of the final snack, primarily because there is an enormous number of different materials available for use in a sheeted dough. Prior approaches have also been ineffective in providing dough compositions wherein the visco-elastic properties of the dough are controlled through formulation such that expansion of the dough is controlled and the dough is continuously sheetable.

Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a reliable method for selectively controlling the organoleptical properties of fabricated snacks made from continuously sheetable dough. It is also desirable to provide dough compositions wherein the properties of the dough are selectively controlled through formulation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to dough compositions and to a method for selectively controlling the organoleptical properties of fabricated snacks. The texture and flavor release of the snack are controlled by incorporating different ingredients having various properties into the dough. By varying the relative amounts and types of ingredients the (1) visco-elastic properties of the dough, (2) amount of expansion that occurs in the dough during frying, (3) rate of water release during frying, (4) internal structure of the finished snack, (5) rate of flavor release from the finished snack and, (6) rate of hydration and dissolution of the finished snack in the mouth, can be selectively controlled. The composition of the dough, (i.e., choice of ingredients) are important with regard to obtaining fabricated snacks having a range of textures and flavor profiles.

In accordance with the method of the present invention, (1) flour, flakes and/or granules, (2) water, and (3) one or more polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of non-potato flour, starches and/or gums are combined. The relative proportions of these ingredients having various properties, are adjusted when formulating the dough composition.

Depending on the properties of the ingredients employed, the process of dough expansion, water/steam release, gelatinization and/or setting of the starch can be co-ordinated such that the desired structure can be obtained. By selectively combining the ingredients, based on their properties (water absorption index, gelatinization temperature, rate of viscosity development, peak viscosity, rate of viscosity breakdown, viscosity during cooling, etc.) one may selectively formulate dough compositions having the desired properties, and hence, formulate snacks wherein the final texture is selectively controlled.

The major components used to selectively control the organoleptical properties of the fabricated snacks, while at the same time providing a dough that is cohesive, non-adhesive, and sheetable, comprise: (1) a potato-based flour component, (2) one or more polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of non-potato-based flour, starch and/or gum, and (3) water. Particularly preferred compositions comprise (1) mainly one or more potato-based ingredients selected from potato flour, potato flakes, or potato granules and mixtures thereof, together with (2) one or more polysaccharides selected from the group consisting of starch wherein the starch is a native starch, pregelatinized and/or partially gelatinized starch, modified starch, starch hydrolyzate, gums selected from hydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose and mixtures thereof, and (3) water.

In addition to the major ingredients, it is possible to further include different ingredients, for example, various emulsifiers, flavors and minerals which can impart different, yet complementary properties to the dough and final product.

Each of these ingredients imparts one or more unique properties to the doughs made therefrom as well as to the finished product made from the doughs. No one component will completely determine the organoleptical properties of the finished product or the visco-elastic properties of the dough, rather the ingredients work together in an interrelated fashion.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Definitions

As used herein "sheetable" dough is a dough capable of being placed on a smooth surface and rolled to the desired final thickness without tearing or forming holes.

As used herein "polysaccharide" refers to naturally occurring, high polymeric carbohydrates composed of anhydro-D-glucopyranosyl units, in either natural, dehydrated (e.g., flakes, granules, meal) or flour form, starches such as, modified starches, native starches, and dehydrated starches, starches derived from tubers, legumes and grain, for example corn starch, wheat starch, rice starch, waxy corn

starch, oat starch, cassava starch, waxy barley starch, waxy rice starch, glutenous rice starch, sweet rice starch, amioca, potato starch, tapioca starch, corn flour, masa corn flour, corn grits, corn meal, rice flour, tapioca, buckwheat flour, rice flour, oat flour, bean flour, barley flour, gum derived from plants and/or microorganisms, cellulose derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

As used herein "Brabender Units (BU)" is an arbitrary unit of viscosity measurement roughly corresponding to centipoise.

As used herein, "modified starch" refers to starch that has been chemically and/or biologically altered to improve its functional characteristics. Suitable modified starches include, but are not limited to, low viscosity starches (e.g., dextrins, acid-modified starches, oxidized starches, enzyme modified starches), stabilized starches (e.g., starch esters, starch ethers), cross-linked starches, starch sugars (e.g. glucose syrup, dextrose, isoglucose) and starches that have received a combination of treatments (e.g., cross-linking and gelatinization) and mixtures thereof.

As used herein, "hydrolyzed starch" or "starch hydrolyzates" refer to starch that has been depolymerized with acid and/or enzymes to provide a given degree of depolymerization (DP) as determined through dextrose equivalent (DE).

As used herein, "raw starch" refers to starch as isolated from tubers, roots, cereals and grains.

As used herein "pregelatinized starch" refers to a starch that has been precooked or is cold water swellable.

As used herein, the term "added water" refers to water which has been added to the dry dough ingredients. Water which is inherently present in the dry dough ingredients, such as in the case of the sources of flour and starches, is not included in the added water.

All percentages are by dry weight unless otherwise specified.

DOUGH PREPARATION

Method for Selecting Ingredients

The method of the present invention for controlling the organoleptical properties of the fabricated snacks is based on formulation. More specifically, the

method is based on the effect imparted by the ingredients on the microstructure of the snack in order to build into the microstructure, certain desired, predetermined properties. This enables one to selectively control the expansion properties of the dough, the internal matrix of the snack and thus, the texture of the final snack.

The number of different starches and gums for use in fabricated snacks is enormous. The compositions can comprise flour, raw starch, modified starch, cross-linked starches, raw starches, cellulose derivatives, carboxymethyl cellulose, starches having more than one treatment (e.g. pregelatinized cross-linked starch, pregelatinized cross-linked hydroxypropylated pregelatinized starches), gums and combinations of these ingredients. Within a given class, there is some commonality in properties. Pregelatinized starches, for instance, require complete mixing and can form gels upon hydration, while raw starches typically hydrate well but require heat to develop viscosity.

The method of the present invention, in its simplest form, comprises selecting ingredients based on function/properties, combining the ingredients to form a sheetable dough, measuring the rheological properties of the dough, and frying the dough. In selecting the ingredients, the water binding properties, temperature stability, rheological properties, shear resistance, and heat holding capacity are taken into consideration. With this information, the texture of the final product can be selectively controlled by varying ingredients proportions.

The visco-elastic properties of the dough are important for obtaining the desired internal structure as well as the final texture of the snack. The visco-elastic properties of the dough can also be modified by changing the ingredients such that the internal structure of the snack may have various types of interstitial voids (i.e., small or large voids, closely packed or widely dispersed voids, deep or shallow voids, irregularly shaped or uniformly shaped voids, thick or thin cell walls, etc.).

The manufacturing process (e.g., mixing, work input, sheeting) can impact the final texture since workability and dough stability play an important role in texture development. In the method of the present invention, this becomes important in that the visco-elastic properties of the dough may be modified. The present

invention provides manufacturing process parameters that allow formula changes within the disclosed ranges.

From the following discussion, it will be appreciated how each of the ingredients within the dough, contribute to the final texture. Specific compositions are set forth in the examples given later in order to demonstrate how the maximization of the performance of each ingredient accomplishes the combination of desired properties in the dough and in the finished product.

Control and Development of Structure

The preferred organoleptical properties of the snacks produced by the method of the present invention are formed from the interaction of the ingredients. The ingredients are combined to make a cohesive, non-adhesive, sheetable dough by thoroughly mixing the components together. The type of ingredients and quantity of ingredients to be added to the dough will depend on the desired properties of the finished product.

The internal structure, and thus the texture of the final product is developed primarily during the cooking process. During frying, the flours, together with the starch and gums, act as water sinks to set the structure. The setting of the structure may be defined as the time in which the dough changes from a somewhat fluid-like dough comprising a high amount of mobile water (i.e., potentially removable), to a more solid, porous structure that maintains a porous structure when the snack is removed from the fryer. Therefore, the water absorption and water binding properties of the ingredients play important roles in controlling the final texture of the snack. By incorporating ingredients having various (1) water absorption/binding properties, (2) gelatinization, (3) swelling capacity, (4) heat-holding capacities, and (5) viscoelastic properties, the organoleptical properties of the snack can be varied by creating a temperature, water release and hydration gradient during frying.

While not well understood, it is believed that at least four separate mechanisms occur during frying: (1) flours, starches, and gums resulting in a change in the viscosity and elasticity of the dough; (2) water holding capacity of the dough being changed; (3) steam exiting, creating voids; and (4) final setting of the structure resulting in a starch matrix having interstitial voids. The final organoleptical

properties are related to the size of the voids, spatial orientation of the voids, thickness of the walls between the voids, and thermal mechanical properties of the snacks. Organoleptic properties are also controlled by the physical-chemical properties of the matrix ingredients and the orientation of the matrix ingredients. Examples of physical-chemical properties include, polymer orientation (random/structured), wettability, types of interaction (water/Van Der Waals forces, salts) and binding/release of small molecules (e.g., flavor and emulsifier) to matrix polymers.

Dough Properties

The first step in the preparation of the snack comprises forming a dough having the desired visco-elastic properties such as, sheet strength, tensile strength, extensibility, and reduced stickiness. Using the method for selecting ingredients described below, one skilled in the art can select the ingredients, as well as their relative concentrations, in order to obtain a sheetable dough that will result in a snack having the desired properties. Some properties considered to be generally desirable with regard to the dough are cohesive, non-adhesive, and continuously sheetable.

The amount, type, and physical properties of the ingredients in the dough composition can greatly affect the rheology and sheatability of the dough. Some ingredients which have high water absorption capacities will absorb more water, thereby reducing the amount of water available to hydrate the other ingredients. This results in a stiffer, more viscous dough.

The viscosity and rheology of the dough can also have a tremendous impact on the final texture of the snack by determining the size, number, and uniformity of the interstitial voids.

The snacks of the present invention are preferably prepared from doughs that are sheetable, elastic and extensible. The tensile strength and sheet strength measurements characterize the rheological properties of the doughs used to prepare the snacks of the present invention.

The tensile strength measurement correlates with cohesiveness, elasticity, and extensibility of the dough. The sheet strength is a measurement that correlates with the ability of the dough to resist developing holes and/or tearing during subsequent

processing steps. The tensile strength and sheet strength can be determined by techniques described herein.

The tensile strength is a measurement of the peak tension force and elastic modulus achieved prior to breaking through the dough sheet. The doughs used to prepare the snacks of the present invention preferably have tensile strength of from about 120gf to about 400gf, preferably from about 140gf to about 380gf, and more preferably from about 160gf to about 360gf.

The doughs used to make the snack of the present invention mixed in a conventional low work input mixer, for example, a Hobart® or Cuisinart®, will typically have a sheet strength between about 140gf to about 375gf depending on whether the doughs have received low work input or higher work input. Preferably, the doughs of the present invention have a sheet strength of from about 190 gf to about 330 gf, and more preferably from about 220 gf to about 300 gf.

Doughs produced on a commercial scale where higher work input mixers (for example, if a Turbolizer® or extruder is used) the sheet strength can be from about 1.5 times to about 2.5 times the sheet strength of the doughs produced from the low work input mixer.

When doughs having the preferred dough composition, viscoelastic properties, sheet strength and tensile strength are fried in fat, the resulting snack can have various structures (e.g., from slightly expanded to a highly expanded structure) and various textures (crisp, crunchy, soft, hard, etc.).

In addition to the above-mentioned properties, doughs comprising certain modified starches (e.g., hydroxypropylated starch) have unique properties that are beneficial in terms of sheeting. It has been observed that certain doughs of the present invention comprise a surface that is more moist and less adhesive than doughs having comparable water levels, not containing the modified starches. This reduces the wear on equipment. In addition, the product is readily removable from the belt. This allows for quick transfer of the sheeted product from belt to belt and from belt to the fryer. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that these properties are related to the composition of the dough.

Dough Compositions

The terms "dough" or "sheetable dough" have interchangeable meanings and shall refer to compositions of the present invention that can be sheeted on a continuous basis. Such doughs are characterized by comprising a flour-component, a polysaccharide selected from modified starch or gum, and water. The doughs may also include other ingredients such as processing aids, emulsifiers, flavors, vitamins, minerals and salts.

The dough compositions are relatively elastic, which makes them highly workable, sheetable and cohesive. The dough compositions comprise from about 55% to about 75% dry mix and from about 25% to about 45% added water.

DRY MIX

Potato-Based Component

An important component in the dry mix of the dough compositions of the present invention is a potato-based component. The potato-based component comprises ingredients such as potato flour, potato granules and potato flakes.

The fabricated snacks produced by the method of the present invention develop the majority of their structure from the flour component. The potato-based component not only forms most of the internal structure present in the snack upon frying (thereby forming a structural matrix) but the potato-based component also tends to affect the rheology of the dough.

The potato-based component preferably comprises from about 51% to about 95%, more preferably from about 65% to about 90%, and even more preferably about 70% to about 85%, of the dry mix. The potato ingredients are selected from the group consisting of potato flour, potato flakes, potato granules, and mixtures thereof.

Particularly preferred potato-based components comprise dehydrated potato flakes and potato granules. The preferred potato flakes comprise from about 40% to about 60% broken cells, from about 16% to about 27% amylose, from about 5% to about 10% moisture, and at least about 0.1% emulsifier. Additionally, the dehydrated flakes preferably comprise a water absorption index of from about 6.7 to about 9.5 grams of water per gram of flakes, a hot paste viscosity of from about 100 Brabender Units (BU) to about 320 BU and a cold paste viscosity of from about 100

BU to about 200 BU. From about 40% to about 60% of the dehydrated potato flakes remain on a #40 U.S. screen.

The preferred potato granules comprise from about 5.0% to about 19.0%, preferably from about 9.0% to about 16.0% amylose; from about 5.0% to about 10.0%, preferably from about 6.0% to about 8.5% moisture; and a water absorption index of from about 3 to about 7 grams of water/gram of granules, preferably from about 4.0 to about 6.0 grams of water/gram of granules.

POLYSACCHARIDE

At least 5.0% of a polysaccharide must be included in the dry mix of the dough composition of the present invention. The polysaccharide can be selected from the group consisting of non-potato based flours, starches or gums, and mixtures thereof. The polysaccharides in the dough compositions mainly reinforce and help to form the internal structure of the finished product. Different polysaccharides will impart their own unique properties to the dough and finished product and may be chosen accordingly. For example, polysaccharides that form stable gels can be added at low levels to increase the viscosity of the dough, help maintain the structure, and/or act as moisture regulating agents. The starches can be added as binders because they can physically interact with and bind significant amounts of water within the formula depending on their concentration and structure. In addition, some starches, such as waxy maize, increase the cohesiveness of the dough. Therefore, depending on the source, type and concentration of the polysaccharide, it can be used to impact the structure of the final snack or primarily to control the properties of the dough. It can be seen how the chemical make-up of the particular polysaccharide, the combination of polysaccharides, and the quantity of polysaccharides added to the dough compositions, will allow one to obtain a multitude of various textures, and also to tailor the snack formulation, with significant considerable predictability, to achieve the desired texture.

1. NON-POTATO-BASED FLOURS

Non-potato-based flours which can be used in the dry mix of the dough composition of the present invention include flours such as corn flour, masa corn flour, corn grits, corn meal, rice flour, tapioca, buckwheat flour, wheat flour, oat

flour, bean flour, barley flour and mixtures thereof. Although the dough compositions may include such flours, these flours represent a smaller portion of the overall composition compared to the potato-based component. These flours will usually make up less than about 44% of the dry mix. Preferably from about 5% to about 30%, and more preferably from about 15% to about 25% non-potato-based flours can be used in the dry mix of the dough compositions of the present invention.

2. STARCHES

The starches suitable for use in the present invention include, raw starch, pregelatinized starch and modified starch derived from tubers, legumes, cereal and grains, for example corn starch, wheat starch, rice starch, waxy corn starch, oat starch, cassava starch, waxy barley, waxy rice starch, glutenous rice starch, sweet rice starch, amioca, potato starch, tapioca starch, oat starch, cassava starch, glutenous rice, sweet rice, and mixtures thereof. The starches preferably have a water absorption index of from about 0.4 to about 8 grams of water per gram of starch. More preferably, the water absorption index of the starches is lower than that of any flakes used to prepare the dough.

A. Raw Starches

Preferred raw starches include, corn starch, waxy corn starch and potato starch. Raw starches can be included in the dough composition because of their ease of dispersibility and hydration, and because they can also provide a degree of binding, strength and expansion to the dough if the granules become swollen and expanded by the release of steam. The smaller linear molecules (if present) dissolve and reassociate to form a gel. For example, corn starch will gradually impart viscosity to the dough, when heated (if sufficient water is present) until it reaches a peak viscosity. A gel results after cooling. Waxy corn starch, on the other hand, increases in viscosity, reaches a peak viscosity and reduces in viscosity more rapidly than regular corn starch. On cooling, waxy corn starch (higher in amylopectin than corn starch) does not form a gel. Incorporation of the regular corn into dough formulations decreases the mouthmelt and reduces the crispness of the product,

whereas incorporating the waxy corn starch increases mouthmelt and results in a product having more crispness than the product comprising the regular starch.

Raw starches may be included in the dry mix of the dough compositions up to a level of about 30%. Typically, a level of from about 2% to about 15%, preferably from about 3% to about 10%, and more preferably from about 5% to about 8% is sufficient to provide a textural and/or organoleptical change in the final product.

B. Pregelatinized Starches

Pregelatinized starches can also be included in the dough compositions to increase the viscosity of the dough and to change the water-binding properties of the dough, among other things. Preferred pregelatinized starches are corn, waxy corn, and potato. As previously stated, one problem with incorporating pregelatinized starches is obtaining complete hydration without forming a premix. The pregelatinized starches however, may be modified to yield various textures and viscosities. When used in the dough compositions of the present, the mouthmelt of the snack is increased (i.e., snack dissolves quicker) and the snack has extended crispness. When calculating the level of gelatinized starch according to the present invention, gelatinized starch that is inherent in potato flakes or granules and flours is not included.

Pregelatinized starch may be present in the dry mix of the dough at a level up to about 15.0%. Preferably from about 2.0% to about 10.0%, more preferably from about 3.0% to about 8.0%, and most preferably from about 5.0% to about 7.0% of pregelatinized starch is used to increase crispness in the snacks of the present invention.

C. Modified Starches

Modified starches suitable for use in the dough compositions of the present invention include, starch hydrolyzates, hydroxyalkylated starch, starch esters, cross-linked starch, starch acetates, starch octenyl succinate and mixtures thereof. The degree of crispness/crunchiness, mouthmelt and flavor-release of the finished product can be selectively controlled by adding starches with different degrees of modification. In addition to degree of modification, the percent amylose/amylopectin and degree of gelatinization also help control the organoleptical properties of the

product by affecting the binding and release of water, and matrix discontinuity. Preferably, the dry modified starches have a water absorption index of from about 0.4 to about 8.0 grams of water per gram of modified starch.

Starch hydrolyzates may be used in the dough compositions to aid in obtaining a sheetable, elastic, dough. The hydrolyzed starches act to decrease the viscosity of the dough by competing with the starch for available water. It has been surprisingly found that sheetable, cohesive, low-water doughs can be prepared without the use of starch hydrolyzates. The term "hydrolyzed starch" refers to oligosaccharide-type materials that are typically obtained by acid and/or enzymatic hydrolysis of starches, preferably corn starch.

Suitable hydrolyzed starches for inclusion in the dough include maltodextrins and corn syrup solids. The hydrolyzed starches for inclusion in the dough have a Dextrose Equivalent (DE) values of from about 10 to about 36 DE, preferably from about 15 to about 30 DE, and more preferably about 18 to about 25 DE. The DE value is a measure of the reducing equivalence of the hydrolyzed starch referenced to dextrose and expressed as a percent (on a dry basis). The higher the DE value, the more reducing sugars present.

The dry mix of the dough of the present invention may comprise up to about 15.0%, preferably from about 2.0% to about 10.0%, more preferably from about 3.0% to about 8.0%, and most preferably from about 5.0% to about 7.0% starch hydrolyzate.

Hydroxyalkylated starches and starch acetates suitable for use in the dough compositions having a degree of substitution (DS) in the range of from about 0.01% to about 0.12% may be used in the dough compositions of the present invention. The low DS modifies the starch such that gelatinization temperature is lowered (compared to the raw starch), the rate of granular swelling is increased, and the tendency for the starch to gel is lowered. The hydroxyalkylated starch, when added to the dough composition, (1) increases the water holding properties of the dough, (2) decreases product density and (3) shows a reduced tendencies toward retrogradation. The hydroxyalkylated and peracetylated starches include cross-linked

hydroxyalkylated and peracetylated starches, preferably derived from corn, waxy corn and potato.

Either or both of these starches (i.e., hydroxyalkylated, starch acetates) increase softness of the finished snack while maintaining crispness, and change the flavor display of the finished snack.

The use of starch octenylsuccinates increases the sheet strength of the dough, increases the density of the final snack and reduces mouthmelt. Incorporation of starch octenylsuccinates into the dough compositions of the present invention produces a dough that has low expansion properties.

Starch hydrolyzates, hydroxyalkylated starches, peracetylated starches and starch octenylsuccinates may be used in the dough compositions up to a level of about 15%. Preferably the starches if used in the dry mix of the dough composition are included at a level of from about 0.5% to about 12.0%, preferably from about 2.0% to about 10.0%, more preferably from about 3.0% to about 7%.

3. GUMS

Gums may also be used in the dough compositions of the present invention. These ingredients improve the sheet strength of the dough and increase crispness and crunchiness. Gums for use in the present invention include those ingredients generally referred to as gums (cellulose derivatives) as well as plant gums. Examples of gums suitable for use in the present invention include, guar gum, xanthan gum, gellan gum, carrageenan gum, gum arabic, gum tragacanth, and pectic acids having various degrees of depolymerization and degrees of methylation. Particularly preferred gums are cellulose derivatives selected from methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose and mixtures thereof.

Gums can be used in the dry mix of the dough at a level of up to about 10%, preferably at a level of about 1.0% to about 8.0%, and more preferably at a level of about 2.0% to about 4.0%.

ADDED WATER

The amount of water that should be added to the dry mix to obtain a dough having adequate rheology, cohesiveness and non-adhesive properties will depend on the concentration of the ingredients, the type of ingredients used, the physical

properties of the ingredients, and the quantity and effectiveness of any emulsifiers and minerals present in the composition. In general, the dough compositions of the present invention comprise from about 25% to about 45% added water, preferably from about 30% to about 40%, and more preferably from about 31% to about 34%, added water. If the maltodextrin or corn syrup solids are added as a solution or syrup, the water in this syrup or solution is included as "added water". The amount of added water includes any water used to dissolve or disperse ingredients and includes water present in corn syrups, starch hydrolyzates, etc.

Emulsifiers

An ingredient that can be added to the dough compositions to aid in the processability of the dough and reduce stickiness is an emulsifier. An emulsifier may be added to directly influence the rheology of the dough. Depending on the emulsifier used, it may greatly decrease the viscosity and/or increase the workability of the dough while keeping the amount of water constant. An emulsifier can additionally be used to increase/decrease the wetability of the dry mix, change the water mobility of the dough and/or change the rate at which the water is released from the dough.

An emulsifier is preferably added to the dough composition prior to sheeting the dough. The emulsifier can be dissolved in a triglyceride fat or in a polyol fatty acid polyester, preferably a sucrose fatty acid polyester such as Olean™, available from The Procter and Gamble Company. Suitable emulsifiers include mono- and diglycerides, diacetyl tartaric acid esters and propylene glycol mono- and diesters, lecithin, and polyglycerol. Polyglycerol emulsifiers such as monoesters of polyglycerols, preferably hexapolyglycerols can be used.

A preferred emulsifier used in the compositions of the present invention comprises a blend of mono- and diglycerides of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids. Preferably, the mono-glyceride is a distilled monoglyceride having an Iodine Value (IV) of about 60, derived from, for example, soybean oil, rapeseed oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower seed oil, palm oil, palm olein, safflower oil, corn oil, peanut oil and mixtures thereof, or the like. The preferred distilled monoglycerides include, but are

not limited to, monoglycerides derived from, soybean oil, rapeseed and palm oil and mixtures thereof, or the like.

Typical commercially available mono-glycerides contain varying amounts of di- and tri-glycerides. For example, distilled monodiglyceride comprise about 90% monoglyceride while monodiglycerides comprise about 30% mono-glycerides. Either can be used in the dough formulations of the present invention.

Preferred monoglycerides comprise an IV of about 60, preferably an IV between about 70 to about 120, more preferably an IV of from about 80 to about 110, even more preferably an IV of from about 90 to about 100.

The level of emulsifier depends on the amount of work input that the dough will receive in subsequent processing steps. As used herein, the term "emulsifier" refers to an emulsifier which has been added to the dry dough ingredients. Emulsifiers which are inherently present in the dry dough ingredients, such as in the case of the potato flakes, are not included in the term added emulsifier.

A particularly preferred emulsifier composition used for making low-fat snacks comprises three functional components: 1. a monoglyceride component; 2. a polyglycerol ester component; and 3. a fat component.

The monoglyceride component of the emulsifier system is comprised of mono-diglycerides, distilled monoglycerides, or mixtures thereof.

The monoglyceride component is comprised of mono-diglycerides, distilled monoglycerides, or mixtures thereof and may be a mixture of saturated and unsaturated glycerol esters of fatty acids, typically derived from hydrogenated to non-hydrogenated vegetable oils such as soybean oil, corn oil, olive oil, sunflower oil, cottonseed oil, palm oil and like vegetable oils, and animal fats such as tallow and lard. The fatty acid monoglyceride component comprises at least 30% monoglycerides. Preferably, more concentrated mono-diglycerides or distilled monoglycerides are used. The more concentrated mono-diglycerides or distilled monoglycerides comprise at least about 60%, preferably from at least about 70% to at least about 98%, more preferably from at least about 80% to at least about 95%, and most preferably about 90% monoglyceride, with the balance being diglycerides

with small amounts of triglyceride and free glycerine. Preferably the amount of free glycerine present in the monoglyceride component is less than about 2.0%.

The monoglyceride component useful in low-fat snacks typically has an iodine value in the range of from about 2 to about 120, preferably from about 20 to about 100, more preferably from about 40 to about 80, and most preferably from about 50 to about 75.

Preferably the mono-diglycerides or distilled monoglyceride has a linolenic fatty acid level of less than 3.5%.

The monoglyceride component comprises from about 2% to about 50%, preferably from about 5% to about 40%, more preferably from about 10% to about 30%, and most preferably from about 12% to about 25%, of the total emulsifier-lipid composition.

The second component of the emulsifier-lipid composition is a polyglycerol ester component. Examples of suitable polyglycerol esters include decaglycerol decaoleate, triglycerol monostearate, octaglycerol monostearate, and octaglycerol mono-palmitate, or mixtures thereof. The polyglycerol esters for use in the present invention are specifically tailored by controlling the hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of the polyglycerol esters. This hydrophilic-lipophilic balance of the polyglycerol ester component is important in preparing the polyglycerol ester component for use in sheeted doughs.

The polyglycerol esters suitable for use in the present invention comprise less than 50%, preferably from about 2% to about 40%, and more preferably from about 5.0% to about 25% free glycerine; from about 5% to about 60%, preferably from about 15% to about 50%, more preferably from about 10% to about 45% and most preferably from about 25% to about 40% monoester. The polyglycerol ester component for use in the present invention additionally has from about 2 to about 10 glycerol units per polyglycerol moiety, wherein the glycerol units have less than 40%, preferably from about 20% to about 33%, more preferably from about 18% to about 30% of their hydroxyl groups esterified with myristic acid, palmitic acid, or stearic acid or mixtures thereof.

The polyglycerol ester component comprises from about 0.5% to about 40%, preferably from about 1% to about 35%, more preferably from about 1% to about 30% and most preferably 2% to about 25% of the total emulsifier-lipid composition.

The third component of the emulsifier-lipid composition is a fat. The terms "fat" and "oil" are used interchangeably herein, unless otherwise specified. The terms "fat" or "oil" refer to edible fatty substances in a general sense, including natural or synthetic fats and oils consisting essentially of triglycerides, such as, for example soybean oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower oil, palm oil, coconut oil, canola oil, fish oil, lard and tallow, which may have been partially or completely hydrogenated or modified otherwise, as well as non-toxic fatty materials having properties similar to triglycerides, herein referred to as non-digestible fats, which materials may be partially or fully indigestible. Reduced calorie fats and edible non-digestible fats, oils or fat substitutes are also included in the term. A particularly preferred non-digestible fat suitable for use as the third component of the emulsifier-lipid of the present invention is Olean, available from The Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH.

The emulsifier is present in the dough compositions of the present invention in an amount of from about 0.5% to about 15.0% by weight, preferably from about 2.0% to about 8.0%, and more preferably from about 3.0% to about 5.0%.

Additional Ingredients

Other ingredients may be added to the dough compositions of the present invention. These ingredients include, but are not limited to, leavening agents (e.g. sodium bicarbonate, calcium acid pyrophosphate), sugar, vitamins, minerals, salt, oil, and flavoring ingredients. The flavoring ingredients may be blended into the dough composition and/or sprinkled upon the dough composition before frying and/or applied to the product after frying. Flavorings include sweet and savory flavors, for example, barbecue, bacon, spices, herbs. Dry vegetables (e.g. onion, garlic, tomato), dairy (e.g. cheese, sour cream) and mixtures thereof.

The dough of the present invention can be prepared by any suitable method for forming sheetable doughs. Preferably, the lower water absorption index materials are hydrated prior to the addition of the higher water absorption index components

(i.e., potato flakes and/or granules). The dough compositions of the present invention can be prepared by thoroughly mixing together the flour component, polysaccharide and emulsifier. Typically, a water pre-blend of any water soluble components, if present, (e.g., sugar, salt, flavoring) is made. The water is then added to the potato flour and/or granules mixture and emulsifier blend and mixed to form a loose, dry dough. Preferred devices for mixing together the dough ingredients are conventional mixers. Hobart® mixers can be used for batch operations and Turbolizer® mixers can be used for continuous mixing operations. However, extruders can also be used to mix the dough and to form the sheets or shaped pieces.

Once prepared, the dough is then formed into a relatively flat, thin sheet. Any method suitable for forming such sheets from starch-based doughs can be used. For example, the sheet can be rolled out between two counter rotating cylindrical rollers to obtain a uniform, relatively thin sheet of dough material. Any conventional sheeting, milling and gauging equipment can be used. The mill rolls should be heated from about 90°F (32°C) to about 135°F (57°C). In a preferred embodiment, the mill rolls are kept at two different temperatures, with the front roller being cooler than the back roller.

Dough compositions of the present invention are usually formed into a sheet having a thickness of from about 0.015 to about 0.10 inches (from about 0.038 to about 0.25 mm), and preferably to a thickness of from about 0.018 to about 0.05 inches (from about 0.4572 to about 1.27mm), and most preferably from about 0.020 to about 0.023 inches (0.508 to 0.5842 mm). For rippled (wavy shaped) chips, the preferred thickness is about 0.75 inches (1.9 mm). The dough sheet is then formed into snack pieces of a predetermined size and shape. The snack pieces can be formed using any suitable stamping or cutting equipment. The snack pieces can be formed into a variety of shapes. For example, the snack pieces can be in the shape of ovals, squares, circles, a bowtie, a star wheel, or a pin wheel. The pieces can be scored to make rippled chips as described in published PCT application WO 95/07610, Dawes et al., January 25, 1996, which is incorporated by reference.

SNACK PREPARATION

After the snack pieces are formed, they are cooked until crisp. The snack pieces can be cooked by frying, partially frying and then baking, or by partially baking then frying. The snack pieces can be fried in a fat compositions comprising triglycerides, non-digestible fat, or a blend of non-digestible fat and triglyceride fat. The terms "fat" and "oil" are used interchangeably herein unless otherwise specified. The terms "fat" or "oil" refer to edible fatty substances in a general sense, including natural or synthetic fats and oils consisting essentially of triglycerides, such as, for example soybean oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower oil, palm oil, coconut oil, canola oil, fish oil, lard and tallow, which may have been partially or completely hydrogenated or modified otherwise, as well as non-toxic fatty materials having properties similar to triglycerides, herein referred to as non-digestible fats, which materials may be partially or fully indigestible. Reduced calorie fats and edible non-digestible fats, oils or fat substitutes are also included in the term.

The term "non-digestible fat" refers to those edible fatty materials that are partially or totally indigestible, e.g., polyol fatty acid polyesters, such as OLEANTM.

It is preferred to fry the snack pieces at temperatures of from about 325°F (162°C) to about 450°F (232°C), preferably from about 350°F (176°C) to about 425°F (218°C), and more preferably from about 360°F (182°C) to about 400°F (204°C).

The dough is fried for a time sufficient to form a product having from about 0.5% to about 6.0%, preferably from about 1.0% to about 5.0%, and more preferably from about 2.0% to about 4.0% moisture. The exact frying time is controlled by the temperature of the frying fat and the starting water content of the dough and the composition of the dough which can be easily determined by one skilled in the art.

Preferably, the snack pieces are fried in oil using a continuous frying method and are constrained during frying. This constrained frying method and apparatus is described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,626,466 (Liepa, 1971). The shaped, constrained pieces are passed through the frying medium until they are fried to a crisp state with a final moisture content of from about 0.5% to about 4% water, preferably 1% to 2%.

Continuous frying or batch frying of the snack pieces in a non-constrained mode is also acceptable. In this method the pieces are immersed in the frying fat on a moving belt or basket.

The frying can be done in a fat composition consisting essentially of a non-digestible fat, or, if desired, the frying can be done in a mixture of conventional triglyceride oil and a non-digestible fat such as those described in U. S. Patent Nos. 3,600,186 to Mattson et al., issued May 12, 1970; 4,005,195 to Jandacek, issued January 25, 1977; 4,005,196 to Jandacek et al., issued January 25, 1977; 4,034,083 to Mattson, issued July 5, 1977; and 4,241,054 to Volpenhein et al., issued December 23, 1980, all of which are incorporated by reference.

By "polyol" is meant a polyhydric alcohol containing at least 4, preferably from 4 to 11 hydroxyl groups. Polyols include sugars (i.e., monosaccharides, disaccharides, and trisaccharides), sugar alcohols, other sugar derivatives (i.e., alkyl glucosides), polyglycerols such as diglycerol and triglycerol, pentaerythritol, sugar ethers such as sorbitan and polyvinyl alcohols. Specific examples of suitable sugars, sugar alcohols and sugar derivatives include xylose, arabinose, ribose, xylitol, erythritol, glucose, methyl glucoside, mannose, galactose, fructose, sorbitol, maltose, lactose, sucrose, raffinose, and maltotriose.

By "polyol fatty acid polyester" is meant a polyol having at least 4 fatty acid ester groups. Polyol fatty acid esters that contain 3 or less fatty acid ester groups are generally digested in, and the products of digestion are absorbed from, the intestinal tract much in the manner of ordinary triglyceride fats or oils, whereas those polyol fatty acid esters containing 4 or more fatty acid ester groups are substantially non-digestible and consequently non-absorbable by the human body. It is not necessary that all of the hydroxyl groups of the polyol be esterified, but it is preferable that disaccharide molecules contain no more than 3 unesterified hydroxyl groups for the purpose of being non-digestible. Typically, substantially all, e.g., at least about 85%, of the hydroxyl groups of the polyol are esterified. In the case of sucrose polyesters, typically from about 7 to 8 of the hydroxyl groups of the polyol are esterified.

The polyol fatty acid esters typically contain fatty acid radicals typically having at least 4 carbon atoms and up to 26 carbon atoms. These fatty acid radicals

can be derived from naturally occurring or synthetic fatty acids. The fatty acid radicals can be saturated or unsaturated, including positional or geometric isomers, e.g., cis- or trans- isomers, and can be the same for all ester groups, or can be mixtures of different fatty acids.

Liquid non-digestible oils can also be used in the practice of the present invention. Liquid non-digestible oils have a complete melting point below about 37° C include liquid polyol fatty acid polyesters (see Jandacek; U.S. Patent 4,005,195; issued January 25, 1977); liquid esters of tricarballic acids (see Hamm; U.S. Patent 4,508,746; issued April 2, 1985); liquid diesters of dicarboxylic acids such as derivatives of malonic and succinic acid (see Fulcher; U.S. Patent 4,582,927; issued April 15, 1986); liquid triglycerides of alpha-branched chain carboxylic acids (see Whyte; U.S. Patent 3,579,548; issued May 18, 1971); liquid ethers and ether esters containing the neopentyl moiety (see Minich; U.S. Patent 2,962,419; issued Nov. 29, 1960); liquid fatty polyethers of polyglycerol (See Hunter et al; U.S. Patent 3,932,532; issued Jan. 13, 1976); liquid alkyl glycoside fatty acid polyesters (see Meyer et al; U.S. Patent 4,840,815; issued June 20, 1989); liquid polyesters of two ether linked hydroxypolycarboxylic acids (e.g., citric or isocitric acid) (see Huhn et al; U.S. Patent 4,888,195; issued December 19, 1988); various liquid esterified alkoxyated polyols including liquid esters of epoxide-extended polyols such as liquid esterified propoxyated glycerins (see White et al; U.S. Patent 4,861,613; issued August 29, 1989; Cooper et al; U.S. Patent 5,399,729; issued March 21, 1995; Mazurek; U.S. Patent 5,589,217; issued December 31, 1996; and Mazurek; U.S. Patent 5,597,605; issued January 28, 1997); liquid esterified ethoxyated sugar and sugar alcohol esters (see Ennis et al; U.S. Patent 5,077,073); liquid esterified ethoxyated alkyl glycosides (see Ennis et al; U.S. Patent 5,059,443, issued October 22, 1991); liquid esterified alkoxyated polysaccharides (see Cooper; U.S. Patent 5,273,772; issued December 28, 1993); liquid linked esterified alkoxyated polyols (see Ferenz; U.S. Patent 5,427,815; issued June 27, 1995 and Ferenz et al; U.S. Patent 5,374,446; issued December 20, 1994); liquid esterified polyoxyalkylene block copolymers (see Cooper; U.S. Patent 5,308,634; issued May 3, 1994); liquid esterified polyethers containing ring-opened oxolane units (see Cooper; U.S. Patent

5,389,392; issued February 14, 1995); liquid alkoxyated polyglycerol polyesters (see Harris; U.S. Patent 5,399,371; issued March 21, 1995); liquid partially esterified polysaccharides (see White; U.S. Patent 4,959,466; issued September 25, 1990); as well as liquid polydimethyl siloxanes (e.g., Fluid Silicones available from Dow Corning). All of the foregoing patents relating to the liquid nondigestible oil component are incorporated herein by reference. Solid non-digestible fats or other solid materials can be added to the liquid non-digestible oils to prevent passive oil loss. Particularly preferred non-digestible fat compositions include those described in U.S. 5,490,995 issued to Corrigan, 1996, U.S. 5,480,667 issued to Corrigan et al, 1996, U.S. 5,451,416 issued to Johnston et al, 1995 and U.S. 5,422,131 issued to Elsen et al, 1995. U.S. 5,419,925 issued to Seiden et al, 1995 describes mixtures of reduced calorie triglycerides and polyol polyesters that can be used herein but provides more digestible fat than is typically preferred.

The preferred non-digestible fats are fatty materials having properties similar to triglycerides such as sucrose polyesters. OLEANTM, a preferred non-digestible fat, is made by The Procter and Gamble Company. These preferred non-digestible fat are described in Young; et al., U.S. Patent 5,085,884, issued February 4, 1992, and U. S. Pat. 5,422,131, issued June 6, 1995 to Elsen et al.

Other ingredients known in the art can also be added to the edible fats and oils, including antioxidants such as TBHQ, ascorbic acid, chelating agents such as citric acid, and anti-foaming agents such as dimethylpolysiloxane.

Final Snack Properties

The organoleptical properties of the finished snack can be selectively controlled. For example, if a harder product is desired, one may add, for example, starch octenylesuccinate or cellulose derivative to a potato-based formula. If a softer product is desired, hydroxypropyl waxy corn starch, may be added.

One test which indicates the amount of force needed to break a product is the Flexure Strength Test described herein. The area (i.e., work applied to break the product) is used to indicate the hardness of the product. As used herein "flexure strength" refers to the force needed to break the product.

The preferred products require a work input of from about 30g/mm to about 265g/mm, preferably from about 50g/mm to about 235g/mm, and more preferably from about 70g/mm to about 147g/mm, and most preferably from about 90 g/mm to about 130 g/mm.

ANALYTICAL METHODS

TENSILE STRENGTH TEST

The tensile test is a measurement of the peak tension force and the elastic modulus of a sheet strip. The tensile strength is read as the maximum peak force (gf) of a graph obtained from force against distance. This test is designed to measure the strength, elasticity and extensibility of the dough sheet. The tensile strength is an average of 5-10 repetitions of each test.

This test is conducted using a Texture Analyzer (TA-XT2) from Texture Technologies Corp. This equipment uses a software called XT.RA Dimensions. This test utilizes 2 parallel friction rollers with a distance between the upper and lower rig arms set at 6cm.

The sheet is cut into a strip 3cm in width by 60cm in length. The bottom of the sheet strip is placed into the lower rig arm slot that is attached to the test bed. The strip is wound 5 revolutions and tightened enough to hold the strip. The top part of the sheet strip is attached to a similar rig slot in a upper arm that is attached to the load cell in the front of the probe carrier. Once the dough is taut between the rig arms, the measurement is begun by moving the rig arms upward at a preset fixed rate 10mm/sec and set to travel 75mm. Once the 5 gram trigger force is attained the graph proceeds to plot the effect on the dough sheet under tension. When the elastic limit is exceeded, the dough strip breaks. The maximum peak force is recorded.

SHEET STRENGTH TEST

The sheet strength test is a puncture test. Sheet strength is the measurement of the force needed to break a dough sheet having a thickness of from about 0.50-0.64mm. The sheet strength is read as the maximum peak force (gf) of a graph obtained from force against distance. The test is designed to measure dough sheet strength. All products are tested at room temperature. Sheet strength is an average

of ten repetitions of each test. The sheet strength is measured by preparing a 3 kilogram batch of dough.

The dough is made in a small Hobart® mixer at low speed for 1.0-1.5 minutes. After mixing, the dough is sheeted using a conventional milling machine with conventional mill rolls.

This test is conducted using a Texture Analyzer (TA-XT2) from Texture Technologies Corp. This equipment uses a software called XTRAD. This test utilizes a 7/16" diameter acrylic cylinder probe (TA-108), which has a smooth edge to minimize any cutting of the dough sheet. The dough sheet is held between two aluminum plates (10 X 10 cm). The aluminum plates have a 7 cm diameter opening in the center. Through this opening the probe makes contact with the sheet and pushes it downwards until it breaks. These plates have an opening in each corner to hold the sheet dough in place. Each dough sheet is pre-punched with holes to fit over the alignment pins at the corners of the plate and cut to the size (10 X 10 cm) of the plate. This provides uniform tension as the probe moves down and through the sheet. The probe travels at 2.0 mm/second until the dough sheet surface is detected at 20 grams of force. The probe then travels at 1.0 mm/second for up to 50 mm, a distance chosen to stretch the dough sheet until it thoroughly ruptures. The probe withdraws at 10.0 mm/second. The probe is run in a "Force vs Compression" mode, which means the probe will move downward measuring the force.

FLEXURE STRENGTH TEST

The flexure strength is a measurement of the force needed to break a finished product. The flexure strength is read as the maximum peak force (gf) of a graph obtained from force against distance. The test is designed to measure the hardness of a finished product. Flexure strength is an average of 10 repetitions of each test. The area under the peak correlates with the amount of force needed to break the finished product.

This test is conducted using a Texture Analyzer (TA-XT2) from Texture Technologies Corp. This equipment uses a software called XTRAD. This test utilizes knife blade with sharp 45° chisel end (TA-42), which has a smooth edge.

The product (saddle shaped, hyperbolic paraboloid) is rested on a platform with 2cmx10cm slot in the middle so that the probe is directly above the product. Once lowered, the knife blade touches every point on $y=x$ straight line of the product.

The probe travels at 5.0 mm/second until a force of 15 grams is detected. The probe then travels at 1.5 mm/second until the product breaks. The probe is withdrawn at 10.0 mm/second. The maximum peak force (the flexure strength) and area under the curve (work applied to break the product) are recorded.

The following examples illustrate the invention in more detail but are not meant to be limiting thereof.

EXAMPLE 1

The following ingredients are combined in the manner described below to a snack of the present invention.

DRY MIX

Ingredient	Wt. %
Flour	76
*Polysaccharide	24
Total	100.0

*the polysaccharide is a blend of a hydrolyzed starch, waxy corn, pregelatinized wheat, and a pregelatinized corn.

A dough is made by blending mix 68% of the dry mix, 31% water, and 1% emulsifier in a Hobart® to form a loose, dry dough (1.0-1.5 minutes). The dough is sheeted by continuously feeding it through a pair of sheeting rolls forming an elastic continuous sheet without pin holes. The dough has a tensile strength of 234g. Sheet thickness is controlled to 0.02 inches (0.05 cm). The front roll is heated to about 90°F (32°C) and the back roll is heated to about 135°F (57°C). The dough sheet is then cut into oval shaped pieces and fried in a constrained frying mold at 385°F (196°C) for about 12 seconds. The product is held in the molds for about 5-10 seconds to allow the oil to drain. The amount of work needed to break the snack is 166g/mm.

EXAMPLE 2

A mix containing 68% of the dry mix, 31% water, and 1% emulsifier are combined in the manner described in Example 1 to form a snack of the present invention. The dough has a tensile strength of 321g.

DRY MIX

Ingredient	Wt. %
¹ Flour	85
² Polysaccharide	15
Total	100.0

¹ Combination of potato flakes and granules

² Combination of hydrolyzed starch and ungelatinized hydroxypropyl crosslinked waxy corn starch.

EXAMPLE 3

To determine the unique properties of various ingredients, the procedure and formulation of Example 2 is repeated several times replacing the ungelatinized hydroxypropyl crosslinked waxy corn starch with the following starches: (A) waxy corn, peracetylated crosslinked starch, and crosslinked potato starch. The amount and type of hydrolyzed starch in the polysaccharide component remains the same and the same total polysaccharide level (15%) is maintained. The formulas and results are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

INGREDIENT	A	B	C
Flour Component	85	85	85
Waxy Corn/ Starch hydrolyzate	15	-	-
Peracetylated Crosslinked Starch/ Starch hydrolyzate	-	15	-
Crosslinked Potato	-	-	15

Starch/ Starch hydrolyzate			
Tensile Strength (g)	330	142	174

Replacing the ungelatinized hydroxypropyl crosslinked waxy corn starch with a waxy corn starch results in a product (A) that is less expanded, less crisp and has a slower mouthmelt than the product containing the hydroxypropyl crosslinked waxy corn starch (example 2). Product A also has less potato chip flavor and less fried flavor than the product of example 2.

When peracetylated crosslinked starch replaces the hydroxypropyl crosslinked waxy corn starch the resulting product (B) is slightly harder than product (A) and the product of example 2. The product of (B) is also less crispy, has a slower mouthmelt, and is gummier than either product A or example 2.

Replacing the hydroxypropyl crosslinked waxy corn with a crosslinked potato starch results in a product (C) that is less expanded and harder than any of the previous products (example 2, A, or B) and a product that is less crispier than example 2 and A.

What is claimed is:

1. A dough composition, comprising from about 55% to about 75% of a dry mix and from about 25% to about 45% water wherein the dry mix comprises,
 - (i) from about 51% to 95%, of a flour component selected from the group consisting of potato flour, potato granules, potato flakes, and mixtures thereof; and
 - (ii) at least about 5.0% of a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of non-potato flour, starch, gum and/or mixtures thereof; and wherein
said dough has a tensile strength of from about 120gf to about 400gf.
2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide is selected from starches, gums, or mixtures thereof; and wherein the starch is selected from native starch, pregelatinized and/or partially gelatinized starch, modified starch, starch hydrolyzate, and wherein the gum is selected from hydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose and mixtures thereof.
3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide is derived from cornstarch, waxy corn starch, potato starch and wheat starch and wherein the starch is selected from raw starch, pregelatinized starch, starch hydrolyzate, hydroxypropyl crosslinked starch, peracetylated crosslinked starch, crosslinked starch, and mixtures thereof.
4. The composition of Claim 3 wherein the dry mix comprises from about 2% to about 7% starch hydrolyzate having a DE of from about 10 to about 36, and from about 2% to about 8% starch selected from the group consisting of waxy corn starch, peracetylated crosslinked potato starch, crosslinked potato starch, ungelatinized hydroxypropyl crosslinked waxy corn starch and mixtures thereof.
5. The dough composition of Claim 4 wherein the tensile strength is from about 140 gf to about 360 gf.
6. The dough composition of Claim 4 wherein the starch is selected from ungelatinized hydroxypropyl crosslinked waxy corn starch.

7. The dough composition of Claim 6 further comprising from about 0.5% to about 5.0% emulsifier. The dough composition of Claim 4 wherein the flour component is selected from potato flakes and potato granules; wherein said potato flakes comprise from about 40% to about 60% broken cells, from about 16% to about 27% amylose, from about 5% to about 10% moisture, at least about 0.1% emulsifier, and a water absorption index of from about 6.7 to about 9.5 grams of water per gram of flakes; wherein said potato granules comprise from about 5% to about 19% amylose, from about 5% to about 10% moisture, and a water absorption index of from about 3.0 to about 7.0 grams of water per grams of granules; and wherein said dry polysaccharides comprise a water absorption of from about 0.4 to about 8.0 grams of water per gram of gram of polysaccharide.
8. A potato-based snack prepared from the dough composition of Claim 1 requiring a work input of from about 30g/mm to about 265g/mm to break said snack.
9. A potato-based snack prepared from the dough composition of Claim 4 requiring a work input of from about 70g/mm to about 235g/mm to break said snack.
10. A potato-base snack made from the dough composition of Claim 7 requiring a work input of from about 90g/mm to about 147g/mm to break said snack.
11. A method for selectively controlling the texture and organoleptical properties of a potato-based snack comprising the steps of:
 - (a) forming a sheetable dough having a tensile strength of from about 120gf to about 400gf from a dry mix and water wherein the dry mix comprises,
 - (i) from about 51% to 95% of a flour component selected from the group consisting of potato flour, potato granules, potato flakes, and mixtures thereof; and
 - (ii) at least about 5.0% of a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of potato flour, starch, gum and mixtures thereof;
 - (b) forming the dough into a sheet having a thickness of from about 0.015 inches (0.038mm) to about 0.10 inches (0.25mm);
 - (c) cutting snack pieces from the sheet; and

frying said snack pieces for a time sufficient to produce a product having a moisture content of from about 0.5% to about 4.0% and a flexure strength of from about 30 g/mm to about 265 g/mm.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the polysaccharide in the sheetable dough is selected from starches or gums and mixtures thereof; and wherein the starch is selected from native starch, pregelatinized and/or partially-gelatinized starch, modified starch, starch hydrolyzate, and mixtures thereof; and wherein the gum is selected from hydroxypropylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose and mixtures thereof.
13. The method of Claim 11 wherein the flour component of the sheetable dough is selected from potato flakes and potato granules; wherein said potato flakes comprise from about 40% to about 60% broken cells, from about 16% to about 27% amylose, from about 5% to about 10% moisture at least about 0.1% emulsifier, and a water absorption index of from about 6.7 to about 9.5 grams of water per gram of flakes; wherein said potato granules comprise from about 5% to about 19% amylose, from about 5% to about 10% moisture; and a water absorption index of from about 3.0 to about 7.0 grams of water per grams of granules; and wherein the polysaccharide in the sheetable dough comprises from about 2% to about 7% starch hydrolyzate (dry mix basis) having a DE of from about 10 to about 36, and from about 2% to about 8% (dry mix basis) starch selected from the group consisting of waxy corn starch, peracetylated crosslinked potato starch, crosslinked potato starch and mixtures thereof; and wherein said dry polysaccharides comprise a water absorption of from about 0.4 to about 8.0 grams of water per gram of polysaccharide.
14. The method of Claim 12 wherein the dough is sheeted to a thickness of from about 0.020 inches to about 0.23 inches.
15. The method of Claim 12 wherein the snack pieces are fried for a time sufficient to produce a product having a moisture content of from about 1% to about 2% and requiring a work input of from about 90g/mm to about 147g/mm to break said snack.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 98/27726

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A23L1/217

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A23L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 95 05090 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 23 February 1995 see claims; examples 1-3 ---	1-16
A	WO 96 01572 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 25 January 1996 see claims 1-5; example ---	1-16
A	WO 97 25880 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 24 July 1997 see claims 1,2,8,9 ---	1-16
A,P	WO 98 00037 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 8 January 1998 see claims 1-12 ---	1-16
	--- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 April 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/04/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Van Moer, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 98/27726

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,P	WO 98 00036 A (PROCTER & GAMBLE) 8 January 1998 see claims 1-18 -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 98/27726

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9505090 A	23-02-1995	US 5464642 A AU 7556494 A CA 2168776 A,C CN 1131380 A EP 0714239 A JP 9502865 T	07-11-1995 14-03-1995 23-02-1995 18-09-1996 05-06-1996 25-03-1997
WO 9601572 A	25-01-1996	AU 2860795 A EP 0772405 A JP 10504450 T	09-02-1996 14-05-1997 06-05-1998
WO 9725880 A	24-07-1997	AU 1358897 A CA 2242902 A EP 0874556 A JP 11502726 T	11-08-1997 24-07-1997 04-11-1998 09-03-1999
WO 9800037 A	08-01-1998	AU 3515297 A	21-01-1998
WO 9800036 A	08-01-1998	AU 3515397 A	21-01-1998